

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are in the application; claims 48, 49, 50 have been added.

Applicant herewith elects the invention **IV**, drawn to a valve controlled by a piezo element, for further prosecution.

Claimed invention IV is directed to species A through F, as specified by the examiner, and **species B (Fig. 2)** is elected for further prosecution. Claims 1, 4-9 and 48-50 read on the elected species.

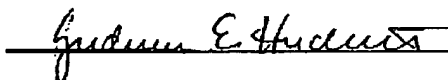
Applicant has submitted an electronic information disclosure statement today citing U.S. 5,821,671. This reference has been cited in the counterpart European application.

The cited prior art reference discloses a piston slide 3 that is actuated by a piezo element 16 arranged in housing 14 and acting by means of a transmission member 18 on the piston slide 3. According to the present invention, the piezo element acts via the spring 11 on the piston and the spring 11 can also provide a damping function. The spring and the piston are axially aligned.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail message from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge the fees required for **three extra claims in excess of 20** or any fees or shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to PTO deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on January 16, 2004,



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GEH/Encl.: time extension petition (1 sheet)

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1/16/04: Response Restriction/Election Req. Ser. No. 10/057,292 - Inventor(s): Trzmiel et al. - Filed: 1/25/2002